



FRIDAY NIGHT FACTS

Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor

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Welcome to Friday Night Facts ! This publication of the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is sent to you to keep you informed of initiatives, events, and success stories from throughout the state that were initiated by community and faith based organizations to benefit their communities. Hoosiers are known for their hospitality and for their commitment to caring for their neighbors.

The Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is committed to helping Hoosiers serve their communities in the most effective way possible. That help may come in many forms and through this newsletter, we will highlight the people and organizations that are doing good work in every corner of our state. If you want to salute an organization or person for their good work in your community, send us an e-mail. **We are here to serve you and your community!**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Paula".

NEWS FROM OFBCI !

For the last several weeks we have shared with you specific topics of interest to some but not always of interest to all. This week is a summary of the many activities of the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives. Hopefully, you will be pleased with what we have accomplished and will continue to send us your ideas, comments and concerns.

Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism

The Commission met for the first time in its new format. The three standing committees, Program, Outreach and Marketing and Governance, meet during the morning and the full Commission meets in the afternoon. The result of this new format was 80% attendance of members, full engagement of all members and a new excitement from the members about what they could accomplish on behalf of the State of Indiana. Member nominated David Reingold, Associate Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington as the new Chairperson. The formal vote will occur in October. Additionally, Commission members went through the new Ethics training required for all state appointed officials and each pledged to follow the rules as explained. Finally, the Commission received an overview of the new rules for grantmaking and administrative procedures from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The new rules will effect all current AmeriCorps grantees as well as those organizations who choose to apply for funding in 2005.

Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism

The Conference is coming! The Conference is coming! April 10-11, 2006 are the dates of the Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism at the downtown Indianapolis Marriott Hotel.. The theme is "Be The Solution!". Forty volunteers have committed to help our office in making sure that this conference is informative, innovative and fun. At the kick-off meeting 33 of those who volunteered to help plan the conference were in attendance and the room was a buzz with ideas, conversation and laughter. There will be 4 tracts of interest at the conference; Faith-Based Initiatives, Volunteerism, Service-Learning and National Service Programs. AmeriCorps members from across the state will participate, along with K-12 students involved in service learning, faith leaders from many denominations, and volunteers from every corner of the state. Mark your calendars and watch this newsletter to learn how you can register to attend.

Contract Compliance and Monitoring Visits

This week we began the process of visiting each of the AmeriCorps grantee sites to review their program documentation and financial records. This procedure is required by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Each visit requires the advance receipt of specific documents for a “desk top review” and then during the site visit, our Contract Compliance Officer reviews policies, procedures and additional documents for compliance and appropriateness. The “desk top review” may take up to three days for completion and the site visit requires at least 2 1/2 additional days for completeness. Following these review days, analysis and a final report are prepared. This process not only assures the Corporation that their policies are being followed, it also should be reassuring to every Hoosier that their tax dollars are being spent in an appropriate fashion.

In fact, the Contract Compliance Officer is new to our office but not new to Field Auditing. Charles Templin came to us with a MBA and MPA and 30+ years of experience in accounting, finance and human resources. We are lucky to have such a talented person to conduct our monitoring visits. The grantees are also lucky to have someone so knowledgeable who will be able to help them resolve any issues.

Conversations with the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

All of the staff have been involved in planning upcoming visits around the state to share with anyone who will listen the role of the OFBCI and how organizations can take advantage of the services our office provides. These conversations will last for approximately 2 hours and will provide information about the OFBCI, the training and technical assistance offered through our office, AmeriCorps grant opportunities and much more. Please watch this newsletter for the dates and places of these upcoming conversations. If your organization would like to host a conversation, please let us know.

Rx for Indiana

Yes, we are still promoting Rx for Indiana. Rx for Indiana was at the State Fair last weekend, in Gary and East Chicago on Monday, at Lafayette Square on Tuesday and back at the State Fair on Wednesday. Additionally, Rx for Indiana materials continue to be provided at health fairs and other events and meetings around the state. If you would like to have materials to share with you organization about Rx for Indiana, please let us know. While we are thrilled with the 98,000+ persons who have gone to the website for assistance and even happier that 74% of those persons initially qualified for assistance, we know there are more. Help us find everyone who needs help with their prescriptions by requesting and distributing Rx for Indiana information at your church or neighborhood organization.

As you can see the staff of the Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives is busy working for YOU!

2005 Statewide Indiana Hunger and Nutrition Summit

WHAT: 2005 Statewide Indiana Hunger and Nutrition Summit

WHO: Co-hosted by the Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues and Indiana's Food Bank Association, Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIH)

WHEN: Friday, August 26th 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: The Marten House Hotel and Lilly Conference Center, 1801 W. 86th, Indianapolis, IN

MORE INFO: http://www.ichhi.org/index.asp?action=programs_ichhi_news&newsid=87 OR (317) 636-8819

Full scholarships are available, please contact Lisa Travis, Policy Analyst, at (317) 636-8819 for scholarship information